

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

5           1.       A mobile handset keypad comprising an array of keys positioned on a surface of a mobile housing for user interface with the mobile, said array of keys comprising:

at least one alphanumeric key;

at least one integral navigation and alphanumeric key; and

a toggle key for toggling between an alphanumeric and a navigation mode.

10           2.       The mobile keypad of claim 1 wherein said toggle key automatically toggles between an alphanumeric and a navigation mode based upon data input during user interface.

15           3.       The mobile keypad of claim 1 wherein said toggle key manually toggles between an alphanumeric and a navigation mode when operated by the user.

20           4.       The mobile keypad of claim 1 wherein said at least one integral navigation and alphanumeric key comprises:

a first integral navigation and alphanumeric key comprising an up navigation function and an alphanumeric function;

a second integral navigation and alphanumeric key comprising a down navigation function and an alphanumeric function;

a third integral navigation and alphanumeric key comprising a right navigation function and an alphanumeric function;

25           a fourth integral navigation and alphanumeric key comprising a left navigation function and an alphanumeric function.

5. A mobile handset keypad comprising an array of keys positioned on a surface of a mobile housing for user interface with the mobile, said array of keys comprising:

at least one alphanumeric key;

a first integral navigation and alphanumeric key comprising an up navigation

5 function and an alphanumeric function;

a second integral navigation and alphanumeric key comprising a down navigation function and an alphanumeric function;

a third integral navigation and alphanumeric key comprising a right navigation function and an alphanumeric function;

10 a fourth integral navigation and alphanumeric key comprising a left navigation function and an alphanumeric function; and

a toggle key for manually toggling between an alphanumeric and a navigation mode when operated by the user and for automatically toggling between said alphanumeric and navigation modes based upon data input during user interface.

15 6. A mobile handset comprising:

a microprocessor and menu display including software routines for creating and displaying a menu;

20 a housing including a front face with openings for touch keys and said display and containing said microprocesor;

a plurality of switches within said housing;

a keypad within said housing comprising an array of keys projecting through the openings in the front face of said housing, each interacting with one corresponding switch;

25 one of said switches being a toggle switch for controlling through a corresponding toggle key the mode of operation of a selected number of said other keys and corresponding switches;

said select number of keys and corresponding switches comprising combined navigation and alphanumeric keys, said alphanumeric keys and corresponding switches providing a

telephone dialing and menu display input function when in an alphanumeric mode of operation and alternatively a menu navigation control mode of operation; and  
means for differentiating said combined alphanumeric and navigation keys from other keys.

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7. The mobile handset of claim 6 wherein said differentiating means comprises graphical elements on the front face of the housing.

8. The mobile handset of claim 6 wherein said differentiating means comprises a backlighting panel that illuminates said combined navigation and alphanumeric keys when said keys are in navigation control mode of operation.

9. The mobile handset of claim 8 wherein said differentiating means additionally comprises at least one housing surface area associated with said combined navigation and alphanumeric keys that is illuminated by said backlighting panel when said keys are in navigation control mode.

10. The mobile handset of claim 6 wherein said differentiating means comprises an icon displayed so as to identify the current mode of operation.

11. The mobile handset of claim 6 additionally comprising means for sensing user input data so as to automatically toggle said combined navigation and alphanumeric keys into navigation control mode.

12. The mobile handset of claim 6 additionally comprising means for sensing user input data so as to automatically toggle said combined navigation and alphanumeric keys into alphanumeric mode.

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switch for ending a telephone call when in alphanumeric mode and alternatively moving up in the menu hierarchy when in navigation control mode.